

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

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(The Annual Professor of the Baghdad School for 1954-55, Dr. Bruce Howe, has just arrived in Iraq and begun the task of searching for the remnants of early village civilization in the northeastern part of the country. He is working there in conjunction with Prof. Robert Braidwood of the Oriental Institute of Chicago University. He writes from Salehedin, Erbil Liwa, on October 18:)

".....In Baghdad the expedition's plans were discussed in detail with the Director of Antiquities, Dr. Naji al-Aqil, and his staff, and arrangements made so that we could start work with a minimum of delay. We are fortunate in having as our Directorate Representative Sayed Hussein Azzam, who has carried out surveys in the Kurdish Hills and worked there with Ralph Solecki in cave excavations. The Directorate also kindly supplied us with the description and location of numerous possible sites from their files which might yield the very early village material interesting to us, as well as the locations of a number of caves and rock shelters.

These sites lie in the Erbil and Mosul Liwas; the region includes the middle and upper reaches of the Greater Zab River and its tributaries. This is just the region, at the edge of Mesopotamia, where the plain begins to break into rolling hills and good sized ridges, where one may theoretically expect cave and early village sites in close proximity. This was the case with Jarmo, Karim Shahr and Palegawra in the previous season of 1951 about Chemchemal east of Kirkuk; and now we are surveying an analogous region 100 miles further north. We are concentrating on areas of low, rolling, dissected open grassland under cultivation or pasturage where one sees extensive river terrace formations, numerous commanding bluffs and hillocks, as well as flat arable tableland and limestone cliffs with shelters, ideal countryside for the final Palaeolithic, the terminal and transitional food-gathering and earliest village or Neolithic settlements. Our aim is to fill the apparent gaps in evidence between each of those three sites near Chemchemal and the later periods. We hope to find actual evidence for these suspected intervals or at least significant variants of these types of settlement.

In the field we have met courtesy, interest and help at every turn. Kemal Beg, the Mudir of Salahedin, has helped Reed, our zoologist, with hunting plans and us with pointers on possible sites, roads, itineraries and local history. We are comfortably installed in a summer hotel of the Government with cooperation of the management and engineers. This building resembles a glorified motel, and we are spread out through a dozen bed-rooms, three verandahs and yards of corridor space with kitchen, dining room, sitting room, study and work space improvised over countless tables, benches and bathtubs; a fly-proof hanging-tent of mosquito netting and poplar wood for the carcasses of Reed's growing collection of fauna

teeters on the roof; the manager's office is his dissecting room; turtles in the bathtub; a partridge temporarily trussed under a waste-basket; pigeon and duck bodies in the ice-box, a way-station to the museum collections; potsherds and flints, horse skulls and sheep bones arrayed on tables; jars of carbon samples tucked in one corner and wash pans for specimens in another; photographic dark room and medicine closet in the dining room's bathroom! The hotel management extended us every facility but, before retiring to Baghdad for the winter and ceding the building to us, could scarcely contain its astonishment as our various activities gathered momentum before their eyes.

Out in the countryside we have already looked into three rock shelters and in one found distinct traces of the same late Palaeolithic stone-working tradition as that at Zarzi and Palegawra; the portion of the upper Bastura River valley still within the foothills has been searched on foot, some 25 square miles of open country, and we are virtually certain there is not much of interest to us there, though we have two small Mousterian-type concentrations on a high terrace, a small mound with Ubaid and other early wares, and numerous smaller localities with undiagnostic or late flints and pottery scattered widely. Out in the more open portion of this basin are other relatively late mounds but nothing else of interest is spotted yet. The limited portion of the Zab north of Eski Kelek and the Erbil-Mosul road has likewise yielded only late mounds so far but must be searched further. However, this and the lower Bastura look too open and flat for our purposes and, though we will have additional looks, we suspect we will have better luck in the higher more cut-up and confined stretches of the lateral wadies. Next week we start on the Khazir valley, a tributary of the Zab opposite the Bastura. Everywhere we have had help and a friendly reception in the villages: gifts of fruit, small animals for Reed, a demonstration of flint working for strike-a-lights, suggestions as to possible sites; leads to flint sources and, of course, many tales of wonders, ruins, statues and mystery. In effect, we are still as much in a process of getting a feel for the terrain and of eliminating unproductive types of territory as we are beginning on a list of definite sites. I will have more to report in my next letter."

repost. Those who are very strict in the observance of the fast neither eat nor drink when they work in the blazing sun. Mahmud, our gardener, who is a very devout Muslim, suffered considerably the first few days of the fast from a parched throat, but he would not take even a sip of water. Each night at eight, he with many hundreds of others, went to the Al Aqsa mosque for prayers. The first night of Ramadan more than two thousand gathered together, and on other special days just after noon, the sua would be crowded with Muslims returning from prayer. The end of Ramadan began with a seven-fold salute of the cannon. The day began with people pouring into the mosques for prayer. From there they went out to visit friends and relatives, and any in need were given gifts of food and money. In fact, Ramadan, as my Muslim friends are always telling me, is pre-eminently a time of charity. The rich man comes to learn what it means to go without food and drink, and through this he learns compassion and concern for his neighbor. After the visits to relatives the Muslim goes home for lunch, but in the early afternoon he goes to ^{the} cemetery where flowers are placed on the graves of members of the family and prayers are offered. In general it seems to be a day of hospitality and generosity. All day long and even throughout the evening (which is very unusual here in Jerusalem) there was almost a steady stream of people passing by the School. The celebrations continue for two or three days. Offices are closed, and families gather together. Nowhere did we see any boisterous exhibitions, any excessive eating, or rowdiness. On the contrary the day was observed with dignity and comparative quiet.

You will doubtless recall that in the last newsletter reference was made to our search for Gilgal near Jericho. We had done considerable reconnoitring throughout the year in that region and had come to some tentative conclusions as to its possible location. We were granted permission from Lankester Harding, Director of Antiquities for Jordan, to make soundings in certain areas. We fixed upon one particular spot not far from Tell es-Sultan. In our party were Professor Kelso, Awni Dajani, inspector of Antiquities for West Jordan, Peter Farr, veteran of several campaigns and a member of Miss Kenyon's staff during the past two years at Jericho, and myself. We had beginner's good fortune. On three almost contiguous low-lying tells we found Iron Age sherds, and a tabun. Encouraged by our initial attack, we decided to return for a three-day campaign. Professor Kelso was busy with arrangements for his Beitin 'dig', but the rest of the party were present, and in addition Oliver Unwin, another member of Miss Kenyon's staff and a competent surveyor. The weather for the most part was tolerable, but there were times when the heat almost overwhelmed all of us, both workmen and staff. But it proved a fascinating project, and one which I have reason to believe is not without its importance. All those who have examined the evidence revealed by the sounding consider it important. A more detailed and definite account will appear later in the year. It could be too much at this stage of our studies to claim ~~to claim~~ that we have discovered ancient Gilgal! But we have discovered an ancient occupation in a strategic location, and the full significance of this will become apparent when the literary and historical references have been duly scrutinized and interpreted.

The eighth joint archaeological operation of Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary and the American School was inaugurated on May 26 by another campaign at Beitin, the former campaign of the two institutions going back to 1934 under the directorship of Professor Albright and the association of Professor Kelso. Now after twenty years the excavations were renewed. A number of the workers still recalled the former dig and enquired about those who participated in it. Some twenty-five workmen have been employed; the basket carriers are women. The old camp site of the 1934 expedition is the center of our present operations. While work has been in progress for only four days it is impossible to make the following observations: in the area examined, all house walls are missing to a depth of a meter below the surface. They had been removed by farmers for boundary walls. Thus the remains of Hellenistic and Roman walls are completely gone, and only a relatively few sherds remain to witness to those periods of occupation. But Iron II walls are making their



appearance, and they are in fine condition. While the pottery has been abundant, the quality suggests that this is one of the poorer sections of the city. It has been a rich experience for the writer to work with Dr. Kelso in this undertaking because it is in such striking contrast to the kind of situation we found in Jericho. There we had millenia of remains displayed before our eyes. The large trench across the mound as well as the other areas excavated are spectacular and impressive. The main walls (i.e. not the revetments or foundations) are of mud brick. Here at Beitin the project is more in the nature of soundings in very limited areas. There is no evidence of mud brick, the walls being entirely of stone. Thus far we have uncovered only one major stratum, but within a week we expect to penetrate below this level. Professor Joseph Free has just brought to a close his second season at Dothan. He has generously supplied me with a brief report of this year's excavation and has permitted me to include it in the newsletter. The first two weeks were devoted to the slope of the hill to make certain that no important structure would be covered when the dump was expended. The excavators went through occupational levels of Iron, EB, MB, and LB. At the bottom of the slope EB pottery continued on down, yielding levels totalling 7.15 meters, all EB. Digging continued for another 1.35 meters, but not a single sherd was recovered. The ceramic materials paralleled the stratification encountered in last year's dig in another part of the tell. It appears that Dothan was a thriving city through the EB period and continued on for at least another millenium and a half. The last six weeks were spent on the top of the tell, an area 23 x 24 meters. Here the excavators found evidence of a thriving Hellenistic colony. Previous to this period Iron II remains appeared, including an infant jar burial associated with characteristic Iron II lamps. The lowest levels encountered this season on the top of the tell belonged to Iron I. One cache from this period produced ten different/whole objects, including a multiple-handled crater bearing fourteen handles. Dr. Free is now preparing a detailed report of the season's operations and is planning a third season at Dothan for the spring of 1955.

This will be the last report for the academic year 1953-54. It has been a good year for us all. We have found more than enough to do. Indeed the difficulty is that there is so much to interest one here that one only makes a beginning. The year has come to an end all too soon, and we all leave with a sense of poignant regret that we can not remain longer. The spirit among the members of the School has been excellent. Our table conversations have been eager and animated. Our guests from Germany, England, Holland, Denmark, Brazil, France, and Switzerland entered into the life of the School very quickly, and in a short time became part of the School family. Our relations with the neighboring institutions have been cordial and friendly. Members of the École Biblique have visited us from time to time, and they have invited us to their series of lectures and teas. But the most gratifying part of this year's work, I believe, is that the purpose and objective of the American School have been realized in some degree. We have been an institution for archaeological research, and it is a tribute to those who have come to us that they have never lost sight of the reasons for the School's existence. My wife has been in charge of the hostel, has attended to the School's business, and has greatly enjoyed both her work and the activities of the School including trips throughout this region. The members of the staff - Omar, Imran, Mahmud, Wadi'a, Meryam, and the Haj - have not merely worked faithfully and well throughout the year; they have done everything to make things run smoothly and have made themselves members of our family. They all contribute greatly to the pleasant atmosphere of the School. Finally, one does not live here at the School without becoming increasingly aware of the contributions of predecessors from Professor Torrey to Professor Albright and from Professor Glueck to Professor Tushingham. It is a great responsibility that is thrust on one, but more than that it is a unique privilege, and I am grateful to the Board of Trustees, to Professor Kraeling and Professor Detweiler for what has been a very happy, and, I think it is not too much to say, a very profitable year.

James Muilenburg, Resident Director.